

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Paragraph at page 5, lines 18-20:

Figs. ~~6a-6g~~ 6a-6e and 6g show left side elevational views of Figs. ~~5a-5g~~ 5a-5e and 5g in corresponding stages of placing bags in a container;

Paragraph starting at page 8, line 29 through page 11, line 2:

The operation of the apparatus shown in Figs. 1-4 will hereinafter be described with reference to Figs. 5a-5i and the corresponding left side elevational views shown in Figs. ~~6a-6g~~ 6a-6e and 6g. From the feed conveyor assembly 1, two bags S are conveyed up to the stop 8. The bags S are on the second belt conveyor 7 and, as is clearly visible in Fig. 5a, they are ready to be pushed onto the collecting belt 13 by means of the transfer device 9. In Fig. 5a, it is clearly visible that the flexible curtain 20 is in a different position from the one shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 5a, the flexible curtain 20 extends in horizontal direction and forms the bottom of the holder 14. In Figs. 5b, 6b, the bags S have been pushed onto the collecting belt 13 by means of the transfer device 9. In Figs. 5c, 6c, the retracting belt 15 has partly been moved into the holder 14 while, at the same time, the collecting belt 13 is driven in order to discharge the bags S therefrom and to place them onto retracting belt 15. In Figs. 5d, 6d, the bags S are wholly on

the retracting belt 15. The retracting belt 15 then moves still further in horizontal direction into the holder 14, which is shown in Figs. 5e, 6e. After this, the retracting belt 15 moves out of the holder 14 while the conveyor belt of the retracting belt 15 is driven, so that the bags S are discharged from the retracting belt 15 and end up on the bottom of the holder 14, which is shown in Figs. 5f and 5g. Fig. 5h shows that the holder 14 has been moved downward to near the bottom of the container C. In Fig. 5a, it is also visible that the flexible curtain still extends in horizontal direction, so that the bags S rest thereon. In Fig. 5i, the flexible curtain 20 has been pulled away from the bottom and now extends in vertical direction. The bags S now rest on the bottom of the container C. When the flexible curtain is pulled away from the bottom, the bags need cover hardly any drop height. This is because, by means of the sensor 21, the holder 14 has been moved against or near the container bottom or an upper layer of bags S present therein. After discharging the bags S, the holder 14 can be moved upward again, which is shown in Fig. 5j. The cycle described hereinabove can now be repeated to place a next layer of bags in a container C.